

REMARKS

Consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-22, 24-26, and 30-41 are currently pending.

Claims 22, 24-26, 30, 36, and 38-41 were allowed.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-21, 31-35, and 37 were rejected.

Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Reply

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 22, 24-26, 30, 36, and 38-41 and indicating that claim 6 would be allowable if amended to incorporate all limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

Rejections

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-21, 31-35, and 37 were rejected.

To advance the prosecution of this application, claims 1, 3-5, 7-21, 31-35, and 37 have been canceled without prejudice. As such, all rejections of record are now moot.

Objections

Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

As suggested by the Examiner, Claim 6 has been amended to place it in proper independent form and includes all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added and that claim 6 is allowable.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 02-4377. In the event that the application is not deemed in condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

By:



Paul A. Ragusa
Patent Office Reg. No. 38,587

30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10012-4498

Attorneys for Applicants
212-408-2500